

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SEC-01 JUSE-00

(ISO) W

----- 102616

P R 301326Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 264

INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EIND, IT, US

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED - ERNEST HAUSER COMES TO ROME

1. GIVING THE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY COMMITTEE LITTLE NOTICE, FORMER LOCKHEED EMPLOYEE ERNEST HAUSER FOLLOWED UP HIS DECLARED WILLINGNESS TO TESTIFY BY ARRIVING IN ROME TO BE HEARD. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARTINAZZOLI TOOK QUICK ACTION TO PUT ASIDE OTHER BUSINESS AND INSURE THAT HAUSER'S TESTIMONY WILL BE TAKEN DURING THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 30.

2. IN PAST WEEKS, FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE THREE APPARENTLY FALSE DOCUMENTS BY L'ESPRESSO (SEE ROME 14256 AND 14343), HAUSER HAS BEEN GIVEN MUCH COVERAGE, MOST OF IT UNFAVORABLE, BY THE ITALIAN PRESS. IN THE MIDST OF THIS PUBLICITY AND FOR REASONS YET UNCLEAR, HAUSER SENT A LETTER TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INQUIRY COMMITTEE OFFERING TO COME TO ROME TO TESTIFY. MARTINAZZOLI'S ANSWER, GIVEN TO NEWSMEN ON SEPTEMBER 28, WAS THAT IF HAUSER "WANTS TO COME, WE WILL LISTEN TO HIM." TAKING THIS AS HIS CUE, HAUSER LEFT PARIS, WHERE HE HAD GONE ON

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"PERSONAL BUSINESS", TO COME TO ROME.

3. MR. HAUSER'S TESTIMONY COMES AT AN IMPORTANT TIME. ON SEPTEMBER 29, THE COMMITTEE HEARD TESTIMONY FROM LIVIO ZANETTI, EDITOR OF L'ESPRESSO. ZANETTI REVEALED THAT THE SOURCE OF THE DOCUMENTS OBTAINED BY THE MAGAZINE, NOT ALL OF WHICH WERE PUBLISHED, WAS ERNEST HAUSER. FURTHERMORE, THE MAGAZINE OBTAINED NO ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS, BUT ONLY PHOTOCOPIES. AFTER PUBLISHING THE DOCUMENTS, THE MAGAZINE ESTABLISHED THROUGH FURTHER IN-QUIRIES THE IRREGULARITY OF THE SWORN STATEMENTS OF TWO LOCKHEED EXECUTIVES WHO HAD ATTESTED TO THE DOCUMENTS.

4. IN ADDITION TO LISTENING TO ZANETTI, THE COMMITTEE YESTERDAY HEARD THE TESTIMONY OF FOUR GENERALS. TODAY'S PRESS TREATMENT OF THE GENERALS' TESTIMONY PORTRAYS THEM AS OPPOSED TO THE CHOICE OF THE HERCULES TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT OVER THE ITALIAN-DESIGNED AND PRODUCED ALTERNATIVE.H VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CORRUPTION, BRIBERY, AEROSPACE INDUSTRY, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME15983
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760369-0571
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976092/aaaaabhy.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOCKHEED - ERNEST HAUSER COMES TO ROME
TAGS: PINT, EIND, IT, US, LOCKHEED, (HAUSER, ERNEST)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006